

What is claimed is:

1 1. An application-independent system for dynamically generating
2 low-complexity graphics embedded as Web content using a tag-delimited script,
3 comprising:
4 a stored object library specifying a graphics object class defining a logical
5 canvas and comprising a vector of row objects which each contain a set of cell
6 objects each defining display attributes for a uniform rectangular region;
7 a set of methods, each encapsulated in the graphics object class and
8 drawing a shape onto the logical canvas by sequentially parsing through each row
9 object in the vector and through each cell object contained therein to consistently
10 structure the logical canvas; and
11 a rendering engine that converts the logical canvas into a table encoded in
12 a tag-delimited script by converting in order each row object into a row within the
13 table, and each cell object into a cell within each row.

1 2. A system according to Claim 1, further comprising:
2 a routine resolving overlap between at least one of a plurality of adjacent
3 row objects and a plurality of adjacent cell objects.

1 3. A system according to Claim 2, wherein the routine splits
2 overlapping cell objects into a plurality of non-overlapping cell objects.

1 4. A system according to Claim 2, wherein the routine splits
2 overlapping row objects into a plurality of non-overlapping row objects.

1 5. A system according to Claim 1, further comprising:
2 a shape builder selecting the display attributes from a list comprising at
3 least one of color, text, text style, dimensions, location, hyperlink, and bubble
4 text.

1 6. A system according to Claim 1, further comprising:
2 a shape builder creating shapes comprising at least one of a clear
3 rectangle, three-dimensional rectangle, arc, characters, image, line, oval, polygon,

10 a rendering engine rendering a table as a tag-delimited script from an
 11 instance of the graphics object class containing the selectable shape rendered from
 12 each at least one row object reference and each at least one cell object reference.

1 19. A system according to Claim 18, further comprising:
 2 an application programming interface exported from the graphics object
 3 class referencing the at least one shape method.

1 20. A system according to Claim 18, further comprising:
 2 a constructor method instantiating an instance of the graphics object class.

1 21. A system according to Claim 18, further comprising:
 2 a shape builder storing a uniform rectangular area into each such at least
 3 one cell object reference; and
 4 a renderer generating each uniform rectangular area as a cell in a row in
 5 the table.

1 22. A system according to Claim 18, further comprising:
 2 a shape builder specifying location, dimensions and related characteristics
 3 and attributes for the selectable shape.

1 23. A system according to Claim 18, further comprising:
 2 a shape builder specifying at least one such shape method to generate one
 3 such selectable shape selected from at least one of a clear rectangle, three-
 4 dimensional rectangle, arc, characters, image, line, oval, polyline,
 5 rectangle, round rectangle, string, filled three-dimensional rectangle, filled arc,
 6 filled oval, filled polygon, and filled round rectangle.

1 24. A system according to Claim 18, further comprising:
 2 a routine determining overlap a plurality of rendered selectable shapes
 3 within the logical canvas.

1 25. A system according to Claim 24, wherein the routine splits
2 horizontally overlapping regions into a plurality of non-overlapping regions
3 within one such cell object reference.

1 26. A system according to Claim 24, wherein the routine splits
2 vertically overlapping regions into a plurality of non-overlapping regions within
3 one such row object reference.

1 27. An application-independent process for specifying graphical Web
2 content as a table written in a tag-delimited script, comprising:

3 defining a graphics object class including state variables and at least one
4 shape method, comprising:

5 including a vector as one such state variable comprising at least
6 one row object reference, each comprising at least one cell object reference; and

7 encoding logic encapsulated within the graphics object class

8 defining the at least one shape method to generate a selectable shape within a
9 logical canvas; and

10 rendering a table as a tag-delimited script from an instance of the graphics
11 object class containing the selectable shape rendered from each at least one row
12 object reference and each at least one cell object reference.

1 28. A process according to Claim 27, further comprising:

2 exporting an application programming interface from the graphics object
3 class referencing the at least one shape method.

1 29. A process according to Claim 27, further comprising:

2 instantiating an instance of the graphics object class.

1 30. A process according to Claim 27, further comprising:

2 storing a uniform rectangular area into each such at least one cell object
3 reference; and

4 generating each uniform rectangular area as a cell in a row in the table.

1 31. A process according to Claim 27, further comprising:
2 specifying location, dimensions and related characteristics and attributes
3 for the selectable shape.

32. A process according to Claim 27, further comprising:
specifying at least one such shape method to generate one such selectable
shape selected from at least one of a clear rectangle, three-dimensional rectangle,
arc, characters, image, line, oval, polygon, polyline, rectangle, round rectangle,
string, filled three-dimensional rectangle, filled arc, filled oval, filled polygon,
and filled round rectangle.

1 33. A process according to Claim 27, further comprising:
2 determining overlap a plurality of rendered selectable shapes within the
3 logical canvas.

1 34. A process according to Claim 33, further comprising:
2 splitting horizontally overlapping regions into a plurality of non-
3 overlapping regions within one such cell object reference.

1 35. A process according to Claim 33, further comprising:
2 splitting vertically overlapping regions into a plurality of non-overlapping
3 regions within one such row object reference.

36. A computer-readable storage medium holding code for performing the process according to Claims 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, or 35.

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